

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image bearing member; and
a plurality of optical boxes, each of said optical boxes containing at least:
a light source;
deflecting means for deflecting light emitted from said light source;

and

a lens, arranged to image light deflected by said deflecting means onto said image bearing member,

wherein one of said plurality of optical boxes is stacked directly on and in contact with a second one of said plurality of optical boxes.

2. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said one optical box has a positioning portion for receiving said second of said optical boxes to form a stack.

3. (Previously Amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said one optical box and said second optical box are fixed to each other by an elastic member, or by adhering or welding.

4. (Previously Amended) An image forming apparatus according to

Claim 1, wherein said one optical box has an engaging portion for engaging with said second optical box.

5. (Previously Amended) An image forming apparatus according to

Claim 4, wherein said engaging portion has a notch portion.

6. and 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Amended) An image forming apparatus according to

Claim 1, wherein said one optical box has an engaging portion for engaging with a main body of said apparatus.

9. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 8,

wherein said engaging portion has a notch portion.

10. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to

Claim 1, comprising a plurality of image bearing members corresponding respectively to said plurality of optical boxes.

11. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to

Claim 11, wherein an interval between said one optical box and said second optical box is equal to an interval between two of said image bearing members.

12. (Previously Amended) An image forming apparatus according to

Claim 1, wherein said optical boxes correspond respectively to a plurality of images having different colors.

(continued)